

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR OCTOBER 1948

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Pompano, Florida.....	5	Late afternoon or early evening.	-----	0	\$100,000	Tornado.....	25 houses demolished; 7 persons injured.
Opa-Locka (15 miles northwest of Miami), Fla.	5	do.....	-----	0	15,000	do.....	3 houses destroyed.
Ft. Lauderdale (4 miles west), Fla.	5	do.....	-----	0	-----	do.....	Minor damage. 3 tornadoes on advance edge of hurricane. A characteristic tornado dip and recovery in pressure on all barograph traces from Keys to Hillsboro Lighthouse. Possibly same tornado, which dipped to earth at the several places above as it progressed northeastward in advance of hurricane vortex.
Eastern Wisconsin (Manitowoc to Kenosha).	7	Early a. m.	-----	-----	21,000	Wind.....	3 small boats beached in Milwaukee and 1 small yacht sunk; estimated loss, \$5,000. Fower poles, wires, and trees blown down in Milwaukee; estimated loss, \$1,000. 7 small boats destroyed in Racine and 3 others badly damaged; estimated loss, \$16,000.
Lake County, Ill.....	7	7 a. m.	-----	-----	-----	do.....	50 m. p. h. winds felled several trees and caused electric power interruptions. Several pleasure boats in Waukegan and Great Lakes harbors damaged.
New London, Conn.....	11	Night.....	-----	-----	7,000	Rain.....	Catch basins clogged and streets in business section flooded, overflowing into stores and residences.
Cameron, W. Va.....	12	Evening.....	-----	-----	1,000	Electrical.....	Several electrical transformers damaged and wiring in more than a score of homes burned out.
Bristow (5 miles southeast), Creek County, Okla.	13	-----	-----	1	-----	do.....	Man killed by lightning as he was putting a tarpaulin over hay.
Faribault, vicinity of, Minn.	15	5-10 p. m.	-----	-----	10,000	do.....	Barn destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning.
Orleans Parish, La.....	18	Late afternoon..	-----	-----	2,000	Thundersquall.....	Thundersquall, attending passage of cold front, resulted in loss of one 27-foot sloop and endangered several others on Lake Pontchartrain. Winds of 35 m. p. h. recorded by Weather Bureau, sufficient to raise very high waves on the lake. 13 persons rescued by Coast Guard from small craft on lakes in Orleans Parish.
Casa Grande (near), Ariz....	18	Evening.....	-----	-----	4,000	Thunderstorm and wind.	Heavy rain, accompanying a thunderstorm, caused flash flood which came down a draw and flooded Dutch Miller cottage camp 18 miles west of Casa Grande, overturning 15 cabins and injuring 3 persons. High winds destroyed 2 buildings on Kortson Ranch near Casa Grande.
Winslow, Ariz.....	19	5:05-5:15 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Tornado cloud.....	Tornado funnel descended from dark cumulus cloud in a well-formed cone. Soon afterwards it was joined by a second very ragged cone. Both cones disappeared, without having reached ground. A noise like rustling of cloth was heard during life of larger cone.
Upper and central Puget Sound area, Wash.	24	Midnight to 10 a. m.	-----	-----	6,000	Wind.....	Persistent high winds, accompanying an ocean disturbance, reached high velocities shortly after midnight with maximum of 41 m. p. h. and extreme of 43 m. p. h. at 6:22 a. m. at Weather Bureau Office, Seattle. Velocities remained high for several hours, being above 30 m. p. h. until about 10 a. m. Damage largely to power and telephone lines and a small amount to shipping that became unmoored; trees uprooted. Area affected extended from Seattle and Tacoma northward to near the Canadian border, but was all in the near vicinity of Puget Sound or the extreme eastern part of the Straits of Juan de Fuca.
Nantucket, Marthas Vineyard and Cape Cod, Mass., southern Rhode Island.	24-25	5 a. m., 24th to 11 p. m., 25th.	-----	-----	-----	Gales and rain.....	Northeast storm of unusually long duration, accompanied by winds of gale force and resulting high seas, caused moderate damage to small craft and shore property, and electric power failures in southeastern Massachusetts and the Narragansett area of Rhode Island. Heavy rain interrupted traffic and caused numerous highway accidents throughout eastern Massachusetts. Described by press as "vest-pocket twister."
Kurtistown (near), Hawaii..	25	-----	-----	-----	500	Wind.....	Struck Hiawatha near location of standpipe and travelled northeastward for 1 mile, passing along eastern edge of town. Small buildings and power lines blown down and some larger buildings damaged.
Hiawatha, Brown County, Kans.	29	10 p. m.	220	0	5,000	Tornado.....	Path 4 miles long.
Independence and vicinity, Montgomery County, Kans.	30	8:30 p. m.	12	-----	2,500	Hail.....	Unpicked cotton knocked out of bolls by high wind, heavy rain, and moderate hail. Most hailstones size of marbles; some 1 inch in diameter. About half of damage due to hail.
Lamesa, Dawson County, Tex.	31	5:34 p. m.	880	-----	180,150	Wind and hail.....	Lightning struck a hay barn.
Elk City (1 mile east), Beckham County, Okla.	31	-----	-----	-----	25,000	Electrical.....	

¹ Miles instead of yards.